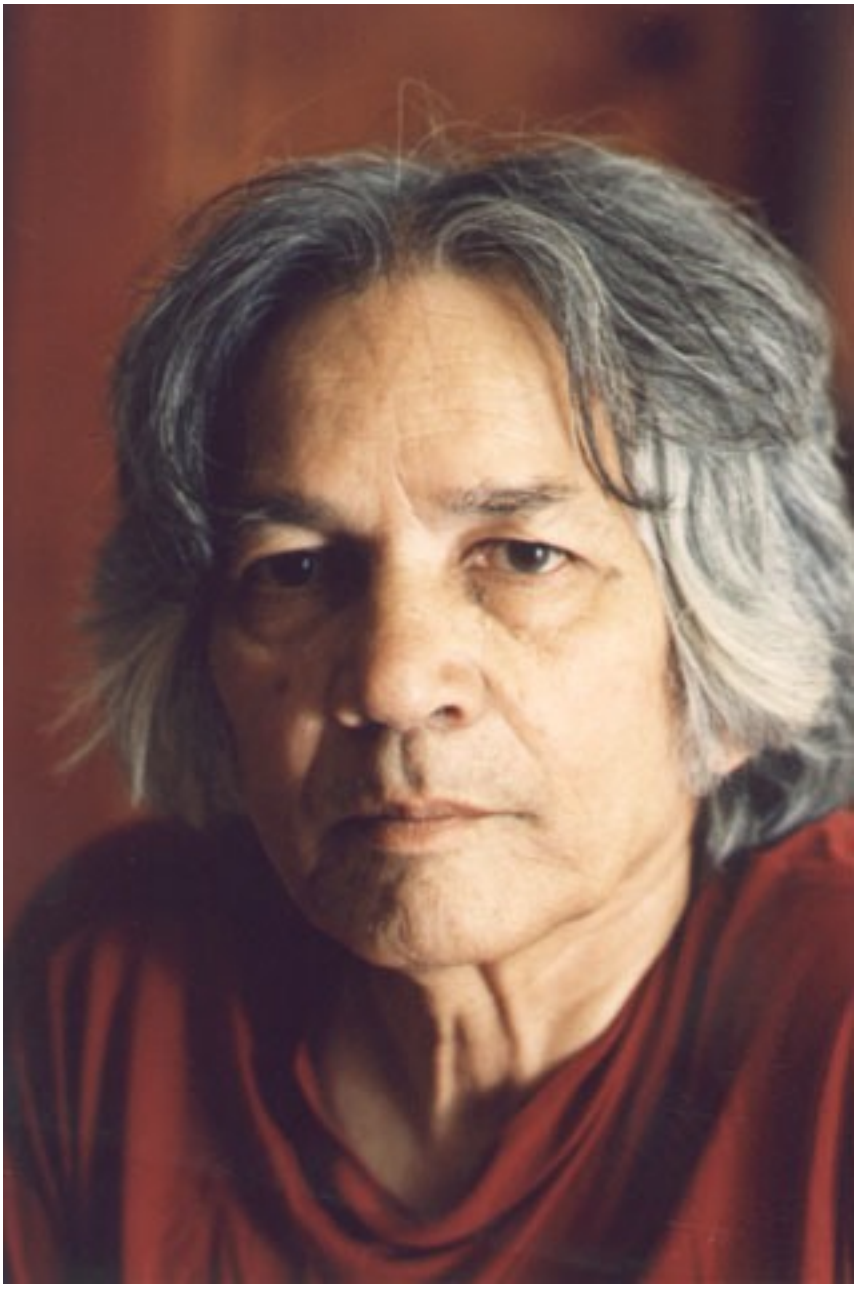
DEVASTATING WISDOM:

THE RADICAL TEACHINGS OF U. G. KRISHNAMURTI

EDITED BY

ROBERT EPSTEIN



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U. G. Krishnamurti

DEDICATED TO:

JAY, MIRIAM, AND SOPHIE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful to Sunita Pant Bansal at Smrti Books for her assistance and to Dr. Narayana Moorty. I also want to express my great appreciation to Mahesh Bhatt, biographer and longtime friend of U. G., and to Dr. Raj Mehta, whose website is a treasure trove of information on U. G. Special thanks go to the various publishers and editors of U. G. Krishnamurti's books for making his ideas accessible to a broader audience: Rodney Arms, Sunita Pansal Bansal, Ellen J. Crystal, Peter Maverick, J. S. R. L. Narayana Moorty, Terry Newland, and Anthony Paul Frank Noronha. My hope is that the current primer will serve as a prompt to readers to take up the original sources from which these selected quotations come. Please see the Bibliography for full citations.

Finally, I wish to thank Stacy Taylor for her loving support and editorial acumen at all stages of this project.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgments

Preface

Selected Quotations A - Z

Notes

Bibliography

Recommended Reading

PREFACE

If you have been searching for a warm and fuzzy spiritual friend; longing to sit at the feet of a teacher or guru who radiates compassion in her very smile; if you are determined to be graced by the profound wisdom of an enlightened scholar, then it may be time to put down the book you are holding and recommence your search. Those who are earnestly seeking enlightenment, God or liberation will find nothing in these pages to quench their thirst or satisfy their longing.

U. G. Krishnamurti lives just past the far end of the trail that leads nowhere. To arrive where he abides, one must undergo a complete and utter razing. We ordinarily value fire so long as it is properly controlled: on a gas range, within a circle of river rocks, in the hands of a welder. Uncontained, fire conjures up images of purgatory; it is the worst destiny imaginable. Think about those poor souls--whether condemned witches or future saints--who were burned at the stake. No one in his or her right mind would petition the gods to be consumed by flames. Yet, this is precisely what happened to U. G., metaphorically speaking, and it is exactly what he endeavored to do with one and all who sought his counsel or begged for his teaching. U. G. was a living conflagration; whereas most fires destroy everything in their wake, he understood that the grand sequoias and redwoods thrive in such intense heat. Do you have the courage to become one of these majestic stands, though it means wholesale devastation and the loss of all you hold dear?

Few have been more difficult to categorize than U. G. Krishnamurti. He denounced all gurus, religious leaders, spiritual teachers, psychologists, and philosophers. U. G. steadfastly maintained that he had no teaching, nothing whatsoever to offer mankind. Yet he continued to make himself available to those from around the world who sought him out for answers to their unending questions. He berated and admonished them--one and all--to go away, as nothing he said could be of any help whatsoever. For his impatience and irascibility, U. G. came to be called “the raging sage.”

Who was this strange fellow--a man who claimed that, after suffering a “calamity” he fell into a “natural state” unlike any other that has existed before or since?

Uppaluri Gopola Krishnamurti was born on July 9, 1918 to Brahmin parents in the village of Masulipatam in South India. His mother died a week after U. G. was born and prophesied that her newborn son was destined for greatness. His maternal grandfather upheld a deathbed promise to his daughter and saw to it that the young U. G. was properly educated and exposed to spiritual teachers of all stripes. In particular U. G. found himself surrounded by the comings and goings of the leaders of the Theosophical Society, including Annie Besant and Colonel Alcott. He also came in contact with Jiddu Krishnamurti, who had been discovered by the psychic Charles Leadbeater as a teen on a beach near Madras and groomed to become the World Teacher. Though the two

would engage in many conversations about the spiritual quest, the younger Krishnamurti came to believe that his namesake had not actually tasted the "sugar cube" of true freedom he talked so frequently about. Too, when the young U. G. discovered a great yogi master ravenously consuming pickles in a back room so as to safeguard his image of spiritual detachment from worldly cravings, the aspirant parted disillusioned and disgusted.

Many years later, U. G. summarily dismissed his early exposure to spiritual practices and techniques:

> The first part of my life was spent in India around yogis, holy men, sages; in short, all the associations that could benefit a person interested in spiritual matters. I found out for myself that it was all bogus. There was nothing to it at all. Totally disillusioned with the whole religious traditions of both the East and the West, I plunged myself into modern psychology, science and whatever the material world could give me. *Natural State*, 3, 23

Despite youthful vows of celibacy, U. G. selected a beautiful woman out of several chosen for him as part of an arranged marriage. He obliged his grandmother and the couple had four children, though U. G. never appeared dedicated to family life. After nearly twenty years together, the marriage broke up as U. G. felt pulled to renew his spiritual quest for the ever-elusive enlightenment of the saints and sages. With little money and the shirt on his back, he wandered from country to country, continent to continent, in search of he-knew-not-what.

It didn't matter where U. G. went or to whom he spoke: the liberation he sought so fervently continued to elude him. Finally, exhausted and disheartened, U. G. came to a full stop. He recounts this period of his life:

> I found out for myself that the whole idea of spirit or psyche was false. When I experimented with and studied the material world, I was surprised to find out that there was no such thing as matter at all. Denying the spiritual and material basis of things, I was left with nowhere to turn. I began drifting on my own, unable to find an answer from any source.
>
> Then one day the futility of what I was doing dawned upon me and the question which had obsessed me for almost my entire life got burnt then disappeared. After that there were no more questions. The thirst burned itself out without ever satisfying itself. Not answers but the ending of questions is the important thing. *Natural State*, 3, 23

Not answers but the ending of questions is the important thing. U. G. passionately maintained that, through no volition of his own, he was thrust into an utterly new and

unprecedented mode of existence--what he came to call “the natural state.” In this natural state, not only his personal history, but the entire history of the human family--passed down through the genes--were purged from his system. Everyday consciousness, with its crippling dependence on thought, memory, knowledge and time, was completely blasted out of his physical organism. U. G. contended that he underwent a clinical death at this time. From then on the thinking mind no longer reigned supreme, interfering with the healthy functioning of the glands, which U. G. regarded as critical in the restoration of a wholly natural way of living.

U. G. was certain that religion and spirituality were utterly useless in bringing about the natural state. On the contrary, all religious faiths and spiritual traditions, with their customs, beliefs, rituals and practices, *led people away from*--not toward--a wholesome, creative, fulfilling way of life. Conventional morality, with its proscriptions and prohibitions, perpetuates shame, guilt and debilitating inner conflict. He summarily condemned all religious and New Age belief systems, along with political and revolutionary ideologies, as the root of all that is wrong with modern living as we know it.

To those lulled into trance by convention and tradition, U. G. sounds blasphemous beyond words. Without flinching, he roundly dismisses even the irreproachable teachings of love and compassion by Jesus or Buddha. He has no patience whatsoever for the likes of Gandhi or Martin Luther King, Jr. For U. G., it is fear and terror, not kindness or brotherhood, that keep people from mutilating or murdering one another; just look around the world or to the next town over.

Was U. G. the most cynical man on the planet? Did he project onto humanity his own aggressive and self-centered impulses?

I think not. As Larry Morris suggests in his Introduction to *The Natural State*, U. G. was motivated out of love, but it was not the form of love that most associate with sages or saints--ancient or modern. U. G. hid his love in the molotov cocktails he unhesitatingly hurled again and again at those who were imprisoned by lifelong beliefs, habits, rituals and practices that rendered them “second hand” human beings, incapable of originality, creativity, or holistic living.

Taking up this book of quotes is thus an act of courage unto itself. One need not agree or disagree with U. G.’s wide-ranging reflections on Anger, Happiness, Love, Meditation, Self-Realization, Sex, Violence or Yoga. Let yourself be affected, provoked, even appalled by what you read. Do this, wholeheartedly and sincerely, and you just might find emerging from the ashes a phoenix (or an as yet undiscovered creature) beyond your wildest dreams.

Robert Epstein
El Cerrito, CA
1 February 2011

A BRIEF NOTE ON THE TEXT

Please note that all italics appear in the original. Brackets [ ] represent clarifying content supplied by the editor. British spelling has been modified for an American readership. The editor has chosen to leave the exclusive reference to the male gender intact, as U.G. spoke at a time when female pronouns were not commonly alternated with male pronouns to represent humanity; and to insert them in the text would be cumbersome for the flow of reading. Reference sources have been abbreviated in the text; a list of the full references may be found in the Bibliography. Finally, the editor takes full responsibility for any errors in the representation of U. G.'s words found in the text.

~ ABSOLUTE ~

There is no such thing as absolute. It is thought, and thought alone, that has created the absolute. Absolute zero, absolute power, absolute perfection, these have been invented by the holy men and "experts."

-- MYTH, 43

~ ACAUSALITY ~

I am saying that whatever has happened to me is acausal. Whatever has happened has happened despite everything I did.

-- OUT, 73

~ ACTION ~

Thought is action, and without it you cannot act. There is no such thing as pure, spontaneous, thought-free action at all. To act is to think.

-- MYTH, 38

All your actions, whether thinking of God or beating a child, spring from the same source -- thinking. The thoughts themselves cannot do any harm.

-- MYTH, 60

You don't realize that everything you are doing is a self-centered activity. . . . The whole of sadhana [spiritual practices for the purpose of attaining enlightenment, self-realization] is self-centered activity.

-- MYSTIQUE, 122

~ ANGER ~

Anger is like an outburst of energy. It is like the high tide and the low tide in the sea.

-- OUT, 114

Every time you condemn anger, that strengthens and fortifies the movement of your culture and your value system.

-- OUT, 102

Anger is energy, a tremendous outburst of energy. And by destroying that energy through any means, you are destroying the expression of life itself. It becomes a problem only when you try to do something with that energy.

-- COURAGE, 105

Having some therapy of hitting your pillows, hitting this, that, and the otheer, is just a joke. That does not free the man from the anger once and for all.

-- COURAGE, 107

~ ANIMALS ~

Compared to man's jungle, nature's jungle is simple and sensible! In nature's jungle animals don't kill their own kind. That is part of the beauty of nature. In this regard man is worse than the other animals.

-- MYTH, 35-36

Animals are helpful [to each other] to a surprising degree.

-- MYTH, 120

You are not different from the animal. You don't want to accept that fact. The only difference is that you think. Thinking is there in the animals also, but it has become very complex in the case of man. That's the difference.

-- MYSTIQUE, 89-90

~ ANSWERS ~

There is the actual need to be free from answers themselves. The search is invalid because it is based upon questions which in turned are based on false knowledge. Your knowledge has not freed you from your problems. Your dilemma is that you are searching for answers to questions you already know the answer to. This is making you neurotic. If the questions you have were actually solvable, it, the question, would blow itself up.

-- MYTH, 89

Not answers, but the ending of questions, is the important thing.

-- MYTH, 158

The one answer for all questions is, “Stop asking questions!”

-- MYSTIQUE, 138

~ ASCETICISM ~

It is a perversion to deny yourself the basic needs of life.

-- MYTH, 21

~ ASSUMPTIONS ~

You are operating under a great many assumptions. The first assumtion is that you think all human beings are the same. I maintain that no two individuals are the same.

-- MYTH, 142

Just as Newtonian principles eventually became a strait-jacket strangling creative thought, so your data about human uniqueness bars your looking at things, including yourself, anew.

-- MYTH, 144

~ AWARENESS ~

Awareness! What a fantastic gimmick gurus use to fool themselves and others.

-- MYTH, 23

If you could be in a state of awareness for a single moment once in your life the continuity would be snapped, the illusion of the experiencing structure, the you, would collapse and everything would fall into the natural rhythm. In this state you do not know what you are looking at. That is awareness.

-- NATURAL STATE, 1, 11

Awareness has no meaning to me because awareness is not an instrument to be used to understand anything, much less to bring about a change here. . . . Awareness can never be separated from the brain.

-- ENEMY, 6

Awareness is not a divided state; there are not two states -- awareness and something else. . . . Awareness is simply the action of the brain. The idea that you can *use* awareness to bring about some happier state of affairs, some sort of transformation, or God knows what, is, for me, absurd.

-- MYTH, 37

Awareness is a simple activity of the brain. It cannot be used to bring about *any* change, including a therapeutic one.

-- MYTH, 71

~ BACKGROUND ~

My background is worthless. It can't be a model for anybody, because your background is unique.

-- MYSTIQUE, 5

~ BEAUTY ~

Does beauty lie in the eye of the beholder? Does it lie in the object? Where does it lie? Beauty is thought-induced.

-- MYSTIQUE, 45

~ BECOMING ~

Becoming is the most important thing in the world for everybody -- to become something. They all want to become rich, whether materially or spiritually, it is exactly the same.

-- MYTH, 80

~ BELIEVERS ~

It is the ones who believe in God, who preach peace and talk of love, who have created the human jungle. Compared to man's jungle, nature's jungle is simple and sensible.

-- MYTH, 35

~ BELIEFS ~

Your beliefs are the result of blind acceptance of authority, all secondhand stuff. . . . When your precious beliefs and illusions come to an end, you come to an end.

-- MYTH, 17

The ending of belief is the ending of the 'you' that is there. . . . Physical death is the only way through which you flush out what your whole culture has put there.

-- ENEMY, 13

Belief in God, or belief in anything, separates us from others. When we find that we cannot force our beliefs on others we resort to violence. We would like everyone to believe the same thing.

-- OUT, 35

Belief is like any other habit, the more you try to control and suppress it, the stronger it becomes.

-- MYTH, 58

You are nothing but belief, and when it dies, you are dead.

-- MYTH, 85

The ending of belief is the ending of the you that is there.

-- NATURAL, 4, 3

~ BEYOND ~

Is there a beyond?. . . There may not be any beyond. You don't know a thing about that beyond. Whatever you know is what you have been told, the knowledge that you have about that. So you are projecting that knowledge.

-- MYSTIQUE, 53

What you know can never be the beyond. Whatever you experience is not the beyond. If there is any beyond, this movement of "you" is absent. The absence of this movement probably is the beyond, but the beyond can never be experienced by you. It is when the "you" is not there.

-- MYSTIQUE, 53

~ BODY ~

The body is immortal.

-- MYTH, 17

The body does not want to learn anything from culture.

-- OUT, 50

There is no such thing as a psychic body or causal body; . . .

-- MYSTIQUE, 95

The body is not concerned with the afterlife or any kind of permanency. It struggles to survive and multiply now.

-- NATUAL STATE, 3, 2

The body knows what is good for itself. It can survive and it *has* survived for millions of years. It is not concerned about your pollution or your ecology, or about the way you are treating it. What it is concerned with is in its own survival. And it *will* survive.

-- OUT, 154

The body is not interested in any ideas you have about your religious or material goals. It is not at all interested. There is always a constant battle between these two things.

-- COURAGE, 53

There is absolutely no religious content to it and no mystical overtones or undertones to the functioning of the body.

-- COURAGE, 54

You do not realize, it but your thinking creates your own body. Without this thought process there is no body consciousness, which is to say there is no body at all.

-- MYSTIQUE, 46

. . . [T]he whole chemistry of the body has to change. It has to undergo a sort of alchemy, if I may put it that way. Luckily, fortunately, there are certain areas in the human organism that are outside the control of thought. . . . They are the glands, what you call the “ductless glands.”

-- MYSTIQUE, 96

~ BOREDOM ~

Boredom is there only when you think that there is something more interesting, more purposeful, more meaningful that you could do than what you are doing.

-- ENEMY, 90

~ BRAIN ~

The brain is only a computer.

-- OUT, 53

The brain is not really a creator; it is just a container. The function of the brain in this body is only to take care of the needs of the physical organism and to maintain its sensitivity, whereas thought, through its constant interference with sensory activity, is destroying the sensitivity of the body.

-- ENEMY, 71

. . . [T]he human brain is not interested in anything that we are interested in, what the culture has imposed on us, in any of its ideations and mentations. . . . What it is interested in is to help the body function intelligently and sanely.

-- ENEMY, 85

~ BUDDHA ~

I don't care what Ramakrishna said, or what Shanka said, or what Buddha said. (1)

-- MYSTIQUE, 77

I had arrived at a point where I said to myself "Buddha deluded himself and deluded others. All those teachers and saviors of mankind were damned fools. . .

-- NATURAL STATE, 1, 3

Buddha has not left another Buddha. No teacher has reproduced another teacher like himself. While he may have followers, he has something that cannot be reproduced, because Nature does not use anything as a model to reproduce another.

-- MYSTIQUE, 123

~ CALAMITY ~

The shattering perception that finally dawns on you is that there is no such thing as ego at all. This insight blows everything apart with a tremendous force when it hits you. It is not an experience that can be shared with another. It is not an experience at all. It is a calamity in which both experience and the experiencer come to an end.

-- NATURAL STATE, 3, 21

I call these events a calamity because from the point of view of one who thinks this is something fantastic, blissful, full of love, ecstasy and all that kind of a thing, this is physical torture. Not a calamity to me but to those who have an image that something marvelous is going to happen

-- NATURAL STATE, 1, 3

~ CAUSE AND EFFECT ~

Why do you assume that everything must have a beginning, an ultimate cause?

Cause-and-effect may be just a casual thing. Events may be just another happening, a causeless event.

-- MYTH, 119

It is thought that has invented the idea of cause and effect. There may not be any such thing as cause at all. Every event is an individual and independent event.

-- ENEMY, 20

~ CERTAINTY ~

The certainty that dawned upon me is something which cannot be transmitted. . . . This certainty blasts everything, including the claimss of the so-called enlightened ones selling things in the marketplace.

-- COURAGE, 44

~ CHAKRAS ~

Don't talk of "higher centers" and *chakras*. It is not these but glands that control the human body.

-- MYTH, 33

~ CHANGE ~

I maintain that there is nothing to change or transform. . . . The whole mystique of enlightenment is based upon the idea of transforming yourself.

-- MYTH, 25

Nothing needs to be done to change anything. Things are changing in their own ways. Nature is changing--some volcanic eruptions somewhere and some earthquakes somewhere.

-- ENEMY, 122

Everything around you is changing; yet you don't want change. You see, that's the problem. Your unwillingness to change is really the problem, and you call it a tradition.

-- OUT, 115

I say that no change is necessary, period.

-- OUT, 215

All these attempts on the part of man to change himself go entirely against the way nature is operating.

-- OUT, 215

~ COMMUNICATION ~

I have actually and factually nothing to communicate, because there is no communication possible at any level.

-- ENEMY, 40

I cannot communicate and you cannot understand because you have no reference point in regard to what I am saying. When once you have understood that there is nothing to understand, what is there to communicate? Communication is just not necessary.

-- MYTH, 95

~ COMPARISON ~

When you stop all this comparison, there is your natural state. Then you will not listen to anybody.

-- MYSTIQUE, 40

~ COMPASSION ~

Compassion is one of the gimmicks of the holy business, sales talk.

-- MYSTIQUE, 139

~ CONDITIONING ~

There is no way you can free yourself from your conditioning. The talk of unconditioned mind is utterly foolish.

-- OUT, 84

It is just not possible for you to be without conditioning. No matter what you do, you are conditioned. The "unconditioning" that the spiritual gurus are talking about is a bogus affair. . . . Conditioning is intelligence, the ability to respond adequately to the environment.

-- MYTH, 103

~ CONFLICT ~

As long as you are in conflict within yourself, it will not be possible for you to be in harmony with the society around you.

-- COURAGE, 26

~ CONSCIOUSNESS ~

I question consciousness because what we call consciousness is memory.

-- ENEMY, 6

There is no such thing as consciousness at all, let alone higher consciousness, super consciousness or cosmic consciousness. All these notions are created by thought.

-- ENEMY, 112

There are no levels of consciousness. Awareness is no different in the waking state than in the sleeping state.

-- MYTH, 71

The content of your consciousness is so immense that you can't say anything about it. That is why I say it's a state of not knowing.

-- NATURAL STATE, 1, 20

Expansion of consciousness is nothing, but you give it so much importance. Drugs will make it a lot easier than all these meditations and yogas.

-- NATURAL STATE, 1, 21

~ COURAGE ~

Courage is to brush aside everything that man has experienced and felt before you. . . . Everything is finished. The whole tradition is finished, however sacred and holy it may be. Then only can you be yourself. That is individuality.

-- NATURAL STATE, 1, 22

You can have the courage to climb the mountain, swim the lakes, go on a raft to the other side of the Atlantic or Pacific. That any fool can do, but the courage to be on your own, to stan on your own two solid feet, is something that cannot be given by somebody. You cannot free yourself of that burden by trying to develop that courage. If you are freed from the burden of the entire past of mankind, then what is left there is the courage.

-- COURAGE, 12

Courage is not an instrument or quality you can use to get somewhere. The stopping of doing is courage. The ending of tradition in you is courage.

-- MYTH, 53

Courage is to brush aside everything that man has experienced and felt before you. You are the only one, greater than all those things.

-- MYSTIQUE, 122

~ CREATIVITY ~

Nature tries to put something together and start all over again, just for the sake of creating. This is the only true creativity.

-- OUT, 217

Artists find it comforting to think that they are creative: ‘creative art,’ ‘creative ideas,’ and ‘creative politics.’ It’s nonsense. . . . They are using something that is already there, their work is an imitation [of nature].

-- OUT, 217

~ CULTURE ~

The basic problem we face today is this; the cultural input, or what society has placed before us as the goal for all of us to reach and attain, is the enemy of this living organism.

-- ENEMY, 19

Culture demands that you should be something other than what you are. What a tremendous amount of energy we waste trying to become that!

-- ENEMY, 28

One thing that I always emphasize is that it is culture that has created us all for the sole purpose of maintaining its status quo and its continuity.

-- ENEMY, 62

The whole foundation of culture is built on the idea of killing and being killed.

-- ENEMY, 83

Whether the culture is Oriental or Occidental, it is basically the same. I don't see any difference between the two except one of accent. . . . All human beings are exactly the same, whether they are Russian, American or Indian.

-- OUT, 216

~ DARWIN ~

I can make no definitive statements about the part genes play in the evolutionary process, but at the moment it appears that Darwin was at least partially wrong in insisting that that acquired characteristics could not be genetically transmitted. I think they *are* transmitted in some fashion.

-- OUT, 214

~ DEATH ~

For me life and death are one, not two separate things.

-- MYTH, 23

As far as the body is concerned there is neither birth nor death.

-- OUT, 74

Creation and destruction are going on simultaneously. The birth and death of thought happen simultaneously. That is why I insist that there is no such thing as death at all. Even the body does not die; it can change form but does not cease altogether [sic]. Because death really does not exist, it is impossible for you to experience it. What you do experience is the void or emptiness you feel upon the disappearance of someone's body. Death can never be experienced, and neither can birth for that matter.

-- MYTH, 149

This body goes through the death process on a daily basis, so often that, in fact, every time it renews itself it is given a longer lease. Then one day, it cannot renew itself, it is finished and carted off to the ash heap.

-- MYTH, 150

As long as you are asking the question, "What is death?" or "What is there after death?" you are already dead. These are dead questions. A living man would never ask those questions.

-- OUT, 40

In nature there is no such thing as death but only a reshuffling of atoms.

-- ENEMY, 98

So death occurs only when there is a need for the atoms to maintain the balance of energy in the universe.

-- ENEMY, 98-99

If you don't know what you are looking at, the 'you' as you know yourself, the 'you' as you experience yourself is going to come to an end. That is death. That is the only death, and there is no other death.

-- OUT, 57

The body cannot be afraid of death. The movement that is created by society or culture is what does not want to come to an end.

-- OUT, 106

When death has provided the basis for the continuity of life, how can you call it death?

-- OUT, 120

There is no such thing as death. What you have are ideas about death, ideas that arise when you sense the absence of another person. Your own death, or the death of your near and dear ones, is not something you can experience.

-- OUT, 219

The body doesn't die. It changes its form, shape, breaks itself into its constituent elements. It is not interested in that. For the body there is no death. For your thinking there is a death, because it does not want to come to an end.

-- COURAGE, 66

. . . [A]ll you can do is speculate about death and reincarnation. Only dead people as about death. . . . Death is finality; you are dead only once. When once the questions and ideas you have [about death] have died, then you will never ask about death again.

-- MYTH, 87

~ DEPENDENCY ~

. . . [W]e have to accept the absurdity of depending upon anything. We must face our helplessness.

-- MYTH, 18

As long as you depend upon somebody, some authority, you are not an individual. Individual uniqueness cannot express itself as long as there is dependence.

-- MYSTIQUE, 122

~ DEPRESSION ~

When you are suffering greatly and are very depressed, the body falls asleep. It is nature's way of handling the situation. Or you use repetitive words as a soporific -- what you call *japa* -- and go into sound sleep.

-- MYTH, 64

~ DESIRE ~

Wanting and thinking -- they always go together. I am not for a moment suggesting that you should suppress all your wants or free yourself from all your wants, and control all your wants. Not at all.

-- COURAGE, 60

If you don't want a thing in this world, there is no thinking.

-- COURAGE, 62

It is society that has placed before us the desire for freedom, the desire for liberation, the desire for God, the desire for self-realization. That is the desire you must be free from. Then all these other desires fall into their own natural rhythm.

-- NATURAL STATE, 3, 7

Unless you are free from the desire of all desires, moksha [freedom from the wheel of birth and death], liberation, or self-realization, you will be miserable. . . . Until you are free from that desire, you cannot be free from any of your miseries.

-- MYTH, 40

~ DIALOGUE ~

You know, this dialogue is only helpful when we come, both of us, to a point where we realize that no dialogue is possible, that no dialogue is necessary.

MYSTIQUE, 83

Dialogue has no meaning. Neither has conversation any meaning. . . . The very fact that you have returned here again to talk and discuss shows that you have not heard a thing I am saying. Once that understanding is there, the whole thing is finished for you once and for all. You will not visit any gurus, read any books on this, or listen to anybody.

-- MYTH, 90

~ DISCIPLINE ~

Discipline to me means a sort of masochism. We are all masochists. We torture ourselves because we think that suffering is a means to achieve our spiritual goals.

-- OUT, 162

Life is difficult. So discipline sounds very attractive to people.

-- OUT, 162-63

~ ECOLOGISTS ~

Now it has become fashionable to become an ecologist. Prince Philip's talk of saving the whales is a joke to me. . . . The useless ecologists, from groups attend meetings, collect funds, start foundations, build organizations worth millions with presidents and vice-presidents, and they all make money. It may sound very cynical to you, but the fact of the matter is that they have no real power.

-- OUT, 228

~ EDUCATION ~

I don't believe in education. You can teach a technique--mathematics, auto mechanics, but not integrity.

-- MYTH, 25

~ EFFORTLESSNESS ~

Effortlessness is something which cannot be achieved through effort. Anything that you do to stop the effort is itself effort.

-- COURAGE, 22

Effortlessness through effort is like peace through war. How can you have peace through war?

-- MYTH, 48

Your wanting to be in a state of effortlessness through the use of effort is not going to succeed. So forget about the effortless state. It doesn't exist at all. . . . How the hell are you going to achieve that goal? You forget that everything that you are doing, any movement that is there, any want that is there for whatever reason, is effort.

-- NATURAL STATE, 2, 3

~ EGO ~

The man who is trying to free himself from the world, or from what he calls "evil" is actually the most egotistical of men. The shattering perception that finally dawns on you is that there is no such thing as "ego" at all! This insight blows everything apart with a tremendous force when it hits you. . . . It is a calamity in which both experience and the experiencer come to an end.

-- MYTH, 149

The reference point, the "I," cannot be eliminated through any volition on your part. In the final analysis, it is your genetically predetermined program, your "script." To be free of that miserable genetic destiny, to throw away the "script," demands tremendous courage. You have to brush *everything* aside to find out.

-- MYTH, 155

~ EMPTINESS ~

Emptiness and fullness are not two different things. You cannot draw a line of demarcation between the void and the fullness.

-- MYSTIQUE, 84

~ ENERGY ~

Energy is something which cannot be defined and which cannot be understood. Not that I am mystifying it.

-- OUT, 94

By conserving sex energy, you are not going to improve yourself in any way. It is too silly and too absurd.

-- MYSTIQUE, 104

Desire is energy. All the energy you want is already in operation there [in the body].

-- NATURAL STATE, 1, 19

All the energy [of the body] is being consumed by the demands of the culture or society or whatever you want to call it to fit you into the framework of that value system. In the process, we are not left with any energy to deal with the other problems. But these problems, that is, the living problems, are very simple.

-- NATURAL STATE, 4, 10

What I'm emphasizing is if your energy is not wasted in pursuit of some mythical certainties offered to us, life becomes very simple. But we end up being wasted, misled and misspent individuals.

-- NATURAL STATE, 5, 3

~ ENLIGHTENMENT ~

There is no such thing as enlightenment.

-- OUT, 6

Your enlightenment or selflessness is always tomorrow, not now.

-- MYTH, 77

. . . [E]nlightenment has no independent existence of its own apart from your knowledge about it. There is no enlightenment at all. The idea of illumination is tied up with change, but there is nothing *to* change.

-- MYTH, 77

To realize that there is no enlightenment at all is enlightenment.

-- MYSTIQUE, 159

Enlightenment is to drop this whole business of wanting to be an enlightened man. That is enlightenment. I don't want to use this word.

-- MYSTIQUE, 156

When enlightenment comes it wipes out everything. That is something which cannot be made to happen, through your effort or through the grace of anybody, . . .

-- NATURAL STATE, 2, 9

~ EVOLUTION ~

Is there any such thing as evolution? I question even that. Darwin has put us all on the wrong track.

-- ENEMY, 119

The whole process of evolution may be just another happening, a causeless event.

-- MYTH, 119

~ EXISTENCE ~

Existence is all that is important, not how to live.

-- MYTH, 27

~ EXPERIENCE ~

There is no experience at all without the help of knowledge.

-- ENEMY, 4

There is no such thing as your own experience. Such experiences, however extraordinary, aren't worth a thing.

-- OUT, 1

There is no such thing as a new experience. . . . The moment you say that something is new, it is the old that is telling you that it is new.

-- ENEMY, 46

All our experiences, spiritual or otherwise, are the basic cause of our suffering. The body is not interested in your bliss or your ecstasies. It is not interested in your pleasure. It is not interested in anything that you are interested in.

-- OUT, 50

~ EXTINCTION ~

I still maintain that it is not love, compassion, humanism, or brotherly sentiments that will save mankind. No, not at all. It is the sheer terror of extinction that can save us, if anything can.

-- OUT, 229

~ FAITH ~

When the thought structure, pressed into the service of fear and hope, cannot achieve what it wants, or cannot be certain, it introduces what you call "faith". . . . When your beliefs have gotten you nowhere, you are told you must cultivate faith. . . . These dependencies are the tokens of your failure to get the results you desire.

-- MYTH, 61

~ FEAR ~

All fears lead eventually to the fear of death, physical death. You are attempting to push the fear of death way into the background so you can continue, that is all.
As long as you are fear-ridden, there can be no sense in discussing the meaning of life.

-- MYTH, 101

Man has created God out of fear. So the problem is fear and not God.

-- MYSTIQUE, 2

That is terrifying - the fear of losing what you know. So actually, you don't want to be free from fear. You do not want the fear to come to an end. All that you are doing - all the therapies and techniques that you are using to free yourself from fear, for whatever reason you want to be free from fear - *is* the thing that is maintaining the fear and giving continuity to it.

-- OUT, 57

Fear is the very thing that you do not want to be free from, what you call 'yourself' *is* fear. The 'you' is born out of fear; it lives in fear, functions in fear and dies in fear.

-- OUT, 107

~ FEELINGS ~

The reality is that even your feelings are thoughts. If you tell yourself that you are happy, you are translating that sensation of happiness within the framework of the knowledge you have. So that is a thought. There are no pure feelings at all.

-- OUT, 146

~ FREEDOM ~

Actually, there is no free will at all.

-- ENEMY, 62

You, or I, have no way of knowing if we are free men. Nothing tells me that I am a free man.

-- MYTH, 106

So freedom exists not in finding answers, but in the dissolution of all questions.

-- MYTH, 89

As I see it, everything is genetically controlled. That means you don't have any freedom of action.

-- OUT, 8

Man has no freedom of action. His wanting and demanding freedom of action seems to be the cause of his suffering.

-- OUT, 224

. . . I maintain that man has no freedom of action. I don't mean the fatalism that the Indians [in India] have practiced and still are practicing. When I say that man has no freedom of action, it is in relation to changing himself, to freeing himself from the burden of the past.

-- MYSTIQUE, 71

Freedom and self-knowledge are linked. . . . The knowledge you have about freedom denies the very possibility of freedom. When you stop looking at yourself with the knowledge you have, the demand to be free from that self drops away.

-- NATURAL STATE, 3, 14

Do you really think that there is freedom in the United States? What does that mean to a starving man -- freedom of speech, freedom of worship and freedom of the press?

-- NATURAL STATE, 4, 8

Man is not able to act, because he is all the time thinking in terms of the freedom to act. "How can I be free to act?" . . . The demand for the freedom to act is preventing the action, which is neither social nor anti-social.

-- COURAGE, 116

Anything you do to free yourself from anything for whatever reason is destroying the sensitivity, clarity, and freedom that is already there.

-- MYTH, 42

~ FREUD ~

For a hundred years we also believed in the theories of Freud, who was a stupendous fraud.

-- ENEMY, 119

~ FUTURE ~

We have no future at all as long as we try to get the answers from the past that is dead.

-- OUT, 126

The only way that the future can come into operation is in the present moment. Unfortunately, in the present moment what is in operation is the past. Your past is creating your future; in the past you were happy or unhappy, foolish or wise, in the future you will be the opposite. So the future can't be any the [sic] different from the past.

-- MYTH, 39

The future is created by hope, that is the only future that exists. The hope of achieving your goal, the hope of attaining enlightenment, the hope of somehow getting off the merry-go-round -- that is the future.

-- MYTH, 95

~ GANDHI ~

For some reason or other, I never liked him. Perhaps it was [due to] my Theosophical background. Above all, he was a mixture of a saint and a politician. I think he was the only man amongst the whole lot who really tried to model his life after what he professed to believe in. He may have failed -- he has *failed* in my opinion -- but the fact that he tried to live according to the model he had before him, made him an interesting chap.

-- MYTH, 139

~ THE GLANDS ~

There are certain glands. These ductless glands are located in exactly the same spots where the Hindus speculated the chakras are. They have feelings, extraordinary feelings. There is one gland here which is called the thymus gland. . . . In your natural state that gland is reactivated.

-- NATURAL STATE, 1, 4

There are so many gland here; for example, the pituitary -- 'third eye,' 'ajna [command] chakra,' they call it. When once the interference of thought is finished, it is taken over by this gland: it is this gland that gives the instructions or orders to the body; not thought any more; thought cannot interfere.

-- NATURAL STATE, 1, 5

~ GOALS ~

The goals that I had set for myself--self-realization, God-realization, transformation, radical or otherwise, or even enlightenment--were all false, and there was nothing there to be realized, and nothing to be found there.

-- ENEMY, 40

~ GOD ~

Man has to be saved from God; that is very essential. I don't mean God in the sense in which you use the word *God*. I mean all that *God* stands for, not only God, but all that is associated with that concept of God, even karma, reincarnation, rebirth, life after death, the whole thing, the whole business of what you call "the great heritage of India."

--MYSTIQUE, 70

God is the ultimate pleasure, uninterrupted happiness. No such thing exists. Your wanting something that does not exist is the root of your problem.

-- MYTH, 29

All our positive approaches have failed. And we have invented what is called the 'negative approach.' But the negative approach is still interested in the same goal that the positive approach is interested in. What is necessary for us is to free ourselves from the goal [of trying to solve our so-called problems in life].

-- OUT, 150

The question of whether God exists or not is irrelevant and immaterial. We have no use for God. We have used God to justify the killing of millions and millions of people. We exploit God.

-- OUT, 236

. . . [T]here is no such thing as God. It is the mind that has created God out of fear. Fear is passed on from generation to generation. What is there is fear, not God. If you are lucky enough to be free from fear, then there is no God.

-- MYTH, 44

. . . [T]he greatest ideal, the most imposing, perfect and powerful, is, of course, God. It is an invention of frightened minds. The human mind has many destructive inventions to its credit. The most destructive one, and the one that has corrupted you, is the invention of God.

-- MYTH, 76

Even God is a neurological problem.

-- MYSTIQUE, 110

If you talk of God it has no meaning at all. Everybody becomes a believer in God or a non-believer in God and ends up fighting on the battlefield.

-- MYSTIQUE, 71

To me the question of whether God exists or not is irrelevant and immaterial. We have no use for God. We have used God to justify the killing of millions and millions of people. We exploit God. You don't want to read your own history. It's full of violence from the beginning to the end.

-- NATURAL STATE, 5, 13

~ GURUS ~

The teacher, guru, or leader who offers solutions is also false, along with his so-called answers. He is not doing any honest work, only selling a cheap, shoddy commodity in the marketplace.

-- MYTH, 19

But so long as you depend upon somebody for solving your problems, so long you remain helpless.

-- ENEMY, 24

I never learned anything from either the secular teachers or spiritual teachers.

-- OUT, 75

The saint is a technocrat. That is what most people are.

-- MYTH, 83

All these spiritual teachers of mankind from the very beginning have conned themselves into the belief that they have the answers, the solutions for mankind.

-- OUT, 143

The man who taught love was corrupt because he created division in his consciousness. The man who spoke of “Love thy neighbor as thyself” was responsible for this horror in the world today.

-- COURAGE, 68

There is no religious content, no mystical overtones at all in what I am saying. Man has to be saved from the saviors of mankind! The religious people -- they kidded themselves and fooled the whole of mankind. Throw them out! That is courage itself.

-- MYSTIQUE, 121

Nobody can guide you. . . . Such a man cannot guide or lead you anywhere. It is not that I am against gurus -- not at all. He knows -- even your books say it -- that it is not the guru that can help you.

-- MYSTIQUE, 123

These gurus are the worst egotists the world has ever seen. All gurus are welfare organizations providing petty experiences to their followers. The guru game is a profitable industry.

-- MYSTIQUE, 151

~ HAPPINESS ~

All I can guarantee is that as long as you are searching for happiness, you will remain unhappy. This is a fact.

-- MYTH, 97

There is no such thing as happiness.

-- MYTH, 31

Your search for happiness is making you unhappy.

-- MYTH, 80

Your actual approach to happiness is grounded in self-interest and naivete. You are a pleasure seeker at all times, and therefore your ideal of the greatest happiness is simply one of endless pleasure without any pain.

-- MYTH, 97

Happiness is something that the body is not interested in. . . . The body does not know, and does not even want to know, anything about happiness.

-- ENEMY, 72

If you do not know what happiness is, you will never be unhappy.

-- ENEMY, 72

The quest for permanent happiness is a lost battle; but we are not ready to accept that fact. What we are left with is some moments of happiness and some moments of unhappiness.

-- OUT, 131

If the question of how to be happy is dropped, then you begin to live, you see, not bothering about happiness at all. That doesn't exist, happiness doesn't exist at all. The more you want it, the more you search for it, the more unhappy you remain.

-- COURAGE, 93

A happy man would never want to be happy.

-- COURAGE, 97

I am perfectly happy with everything as it is. I am happy with misery, poverty, and death. I am also happy with wealth and psychological fulfillment.

-- MYSTIQUE, 144

~ HEART ~

The tremendous importance that we have given to the 'heart' is totally irrelevant. To make a distinction between the 'head' and the 'heart' is interesting, but in the long run it is not going to help us.

-- OUT, 146

~ HELP ~

I am not interested in helping anyone. . . Things have gone too far.

-- OUT, 216

I cannot help anyone at all, and neither can anyone else. You do not need help. On the contrary, you need to be totally helpless. And if you seek to achieve this helplessness through my help, you are lost.

-- MYSTIQUE, 144

. . . [A]lthough I am in a natural state, I cannot help someone else, because it is my natural state, not his.

-- MYSTIQUE, 145

~ HELPLESSNESS ~

The uselessness of turning to inner or outer sources to help you is something of which I am certain. It is clear to me that to find out for yourself you must be absolutely helpless with nowhere to turn. That is all.

-- MYTH, 88

Your helplessness persists because of your dependency upon some outside agency. When that dependency upon some outside agency, fictitious or not, is not there, then the feelings are not there. If the one goes, the other must go also.

-- MYTH, 95

This is the ultimate; you have to totally surrender yourself. . . throwing in the towel, throwing in the sponge -- and what comes out of that is jnana [wisdom]. It is not surrender in the ordinary sense of the word. It means there isn't anything you can do. That is total surrender, total helplessness. It can't be brought about through any effort or volition of yours.

-- MYSTIQUE, 120

If you really come to the point that no outside agency can be of any help, automatically your total helplessness also goes. These are the obverse and the reverse of the same coin.

-- MYSTIQUE, 147

~ HERE AND NOW ~

The now can never be experienced by you. Whatever you experience is not the now. . . . The now does not exist as far as you are concerned except as a concept. What you experience is only the knowledge you have about it, and the knowledge has come from some outside agency always. It is somebody else's, not yours.

-- NATURAL STATE, 1, 21

The talk of living from moment to moment, by creating a thought-induced state of mind, has no meaning to me except in terms of the physical functioning of the body.

-- COURAGE, 47

Thought has also invented the opposite of time, the "now," the "eternal now." The present exists only as an idea. The moment you attempt to look at the present, it has already been brought into the framework of the past.

-- MYTH, 72-73

~ HINDUISM ~

Hinduism is not a religion. It is a combination and confusion of many things. . . .

Again, I repeat, Hinduism is not a religion in the usual sense; it is like a street with hundreds of shops.

-- MYTH, 132

~ HUMAN NATURE ~

We are all like the animals. We are not different, nor are we created for any grander purpose than the mosquito that is sucking your blood.

-- ENEMY, 72

Following another is an animal quality. Man cannot become man so long as he follows somebody.

-- NATURAL, 1, 24

I maintain that we are nothing but a fortuitous concourse of atoms.

-- ENEMY, 74

What is man? Man is memory.

-- OUT, 8

~ HUNGER ~

Every one has a right to be fed.

-- ENEMY, P. 58

Everybody must be fed, clothed, and given shelter. There is no excuse for the poverty in this country [India].

-- MYSTIQUE, 62

The people around Mother Teresa are capitalizing on her fame. All they are interested in is money, you know, to carry on her work. Why should all these things be institutionalized? You see someone in pain, hungry. You respond to him. That's all there is to it.

-- MYTH, 120

~ HOLINESS ~

You may not like the word *contamination*, but all that you consider sacred, holy, and profound is a contamination.

-- MYSTIQUE, 3

~ HOPE ~

It is very comforting to believe that we are going to do something extraordinary in the future. What we are left with is hope; and we live and die in hope.

-- OUT, 127

Thought has created tomorrow. You feel hopeless because you have created tomorrow's hope. Your only chance is now -- no hope is necessary.

-- MYTH, 70

~ HUMILITY ~

Humility is an art that one practices. There is no such thing as humility. As long as you *know*, there is no humility there. The known and humility cannot coexist.

-- MYTH, 124

~ IDEAS ~

Forcing life to fit your dead ideas and assumptions is your basic difficulty.

-- MYTH, 104

~ IDENTITY ~

What is responsible for the human tragedy or the malady that we are confronted with today is that we are interested in maintaining the identities that are created by our culture.

-- OUT, 124

Another thing I want to emphasize is that what we call identity, the 'I,' the 'me,' the 'you,' the 'center,' the 'psyche,' is artificially created. It does not exist at all.

-- OUT, 207

~ ILLUSION ~

The Sanksrit word "maya" does not mean illusion in the same sense in which the English word is used. "Maya" means to measure.

-- COURAGE, 45

Anything you experience based on thought is illusion.

-- MYTH, 37

~ IMAGES ~

There cannot be dreaming without images. When you are lying in bed you call it dreaming, when sitting with the eyes open you call it something else. . . For me, these images are absent, whether I am in a “waking” or a “sleeping” state. I cannot form any image at any time.

-- MYTH, 71

~ IMMORTALITY ~

It is mortality that creates immortality.

-- MYTH, 111

It is the body which is immortal. It only changes its form after clinical death, remaining within the flow of life in new shapes.

-- MYTH, 17

The body knows that it is immortal. I very deliberately use the word immortal because nothing there comes to an end. When what you call clinical death takes place, the body breaks itself into its constituent elements. That’s all that happens.

-- COURAGE, 51

~ INDIVIDUAL ~

Only when you are free from what every man and woman has thought and felt before you will you become an individual.

-- MYTH, 97

All the accumulated knowledge, experience, and suffering of mankind is inside you. You must build a huge bonfire within you. Then you will become an individual.

-- MYTH, 98

~ INSECURITY ~

Your insecurity springs from your refusal to face the temporary nature of thought.

-- MYTH, 62

~ INSIGHT ~

All insights, however extraordinary they may be, are worthless, because it is thought that has created what we call insight, and through that it is maintaining its continuity and status quo.

-- ENEMY, 3

The talk of intuition and insight is another illusion. Every insight you have is born out of your thinking. The insights strengthen and fortify the very thing you are trying to be free from. All insights, however extraordinary they may be, are worthless.

-- OUT, 137

~ INSPIRATION ~

Inspiration is a meaningless thing. . . . Lost, desperate people create a market for inspiration. So, I am not interested in inspiring anybody. All inspired action will eventually destroy you and your kind. That's a fact!

-- MYTH, 129

~ INTELLIGENCE ~

The intellect is created by culture and is acquired. The intelligence that is necessary for survival is already there in the physical organism. You don't have to learn a thing.

-- OUT, 108

The intelligence that is there [in the body] can function much more effectively than all the solutions that man has come up with through his thinking, which is the result of millions, and millions and millions of years of evolution.

-- COURAGE, 115

~ INSTINCTS ~

Actually there are no instincts in the human being at all. There is no such thing as instinct. That's all invented by your fanciful thinking.

-- OUT, 116

~ INTUITION ~

The talk of intuition only puts us on a merry-go-round. It doesn't lead us anywhere.

-- OUT, 145

Intuition is nothing but a sensitized thought -- but still it is a thought. So anything you understand through the help of that instrument has not helped you to understanding anything.

-- COURAGE, 70

~ KNOWLEDGE ~

We want to know everything, and that is our problem.

-- OUT, 22

To be free from knowledge is not an easy thing. You are that knowledge -- not only the knowledge that you have acquired in this life, but the knowledge of millions and millions of years, everybody's experiences.

-- MYSTIQUE 121

If books could teach people anything, the world would be a paradise. Technical matters, yes -- how to fix a tape-recorder and so on -- but books on matters like this [the meaning of life] have no value.

-- MYSTIQUE, 91

~ J. KRISHNAMURTI ~

I think he is a tremendous hoax. That's what I have against J. Krishnamurti. He has never come out clean.

-- MYTH, 124

Some people come and ask me, "You hung around [J.] Krishnamurti for seven years. Do you mean to say that it had no impact?" I say, "In spite of Krishnamurti, this thing happened [the "calamity" that freed U. G.]. If it has to happen, it has to happen in spite of me and in spite of my teachers. No impact, nothing. On the contrary, it makes it very difficult for me.

-- MYSTIQUE, 148

Since there is no such thing as mind, the "mutation of mind" that J. Krishnamurti is talking about has no meaning. There is nothing there to be transformed, radically or otherwise. . . Krishnamurti's teaching is phony baloney. There is nothing to his teaching at all, and he cannot produce anything at all.

-- MYSTIQUE, 150-151

There's a book you'll find there on the shelf, *Freedom from the Known* [by J. Krishnamurti]. It's a very fancy title. So, you are reading that book. That's the very thing you must be free from in order to be free. What you are reading there, you must be free from.

-- MYSTIQUE, 158-159

~ LEVELS ~

There are no planes, no levels.

-- MYSTIQUE, P. 23

Don't talk of higher centers and chakras. It is not these but glands that control the human body. It is the glands that give the instructions for the functioning of this organism.

-- NATURAL STATE, 3, 4

~ LIFE ~

Life as such has no beginning and no end. It is a beginningless and endless movement and you are only an expression of it.

-- NATURAL STATE, 1, 30

Unfortunately we have divided life into material and spiritual. That is the greatest and biggest escape that we have created. You see, it's all one. You can't divide life into material and spiritual. That is where we have gone wrong.

-- MYSTIQUE, 65

Man's efforts to give life direction can only meet with frustration, for *life has no direction at all.*

-- MYTH, 109

Nobody knows anything about life. We have only concepts, ideations, and mentations about life.

-- OUT, 38

You will never know what life is. Nobody can say anything about life. You can give definitions, but those definitions have no meaning. You can theorize about life, but that is a thing that is not of any value to you. It cannot help you understanding anything.

-- MYSTIQUE, 91

Life is simply a process of stimulus and response; and stimulus and response are one unitary movement. But it is thought that separates them and says that this is the response and that is the stimulus.

-- OUT, 93

Life is something, which you cannot capture, contain, and give expression to.

-- OUT, 219

What life is I don't know; nor will I ever. You can say that life is this, that, or the other, and give hundreds of definitions. But the definitions do not capture life.

-- OUT, 220

Life is action. Unquestioned action is morality. Questioning your actions is destroying the expression of life.

-- MYSTIQUE, 51

~ LISTENING ~

Your very listening is interpretation. You never listen to anybody. It is not possible for you to listen to anybody without interpreting.

-- NATURAL STATE, 1, 26

Don't listen to me. It will create an unnecessary disturbance in you. It will only intensify the neurotic situation you are already caught in.

-- MYTH, 83

What I am saying will, if really listened to, put an end to you as you know and experience yourself. You are not listening to me at all. Your so-called listening is all in the past.

-- MYTH, 97

~ LOVE AND HATE ~

Talk of love is one of the most absurd things.

-- COURAGE, 69

Love is an invention of the moment, used to replace power.

-- MYTH, 120

Love and hate are exactly the same. They have together resulted in massacre, murder, assassination, and wars.

-- MYTH, 28

. . . [L]ove and hate are not opposite ends of the same spectrum; they are one and the sam thing. They are much closer than kissing cousins.

-- MYTH, 129

Wherever there is division, there can't be love.

-- ENEMY, 104

. . . [L]ove is fascist in its nature, in its birth, in its expression and in its action. It cannot do us any good. We may talk of love but it doesn't mean anything.

-- OUT, 141

~ MEANING ~

To me to ask that question is so silly, so meaningless, and so absurd--"What is the meaning of life?" It is not life that we are really interested in but living.

-- ENEMY, 91

The questions, "Is there any meaning?" "Is there any purpose?" take away the living quality of life.

-- ENEMY, 100

You are obsessed with finding meaning in life, and that is consuming a lot of energy. If that energy is released from the search for meaning, it can be used to see the futility of all search.

-- MYTH, 50

~ (MY) MESSAGE ~

I've no message to give to the world. Whatever happens to me is such that I can't share it with the world.

-- MYSTIQUE, 82

I cannot help you. Whatever I say is misleading.

-- MYSTIQUE, 82

You are not going to get anything here. You are wasting your time. Pack up and go! That is my message.

-- NATURAL STATE, 1, 28

~ MEDITATION ~

Things are bad enough. The meditative state is worse. . . .

-- NATURAL STATE, 3, 3

Meditation is itself an evil. . . . You may experience some petty little mystical experiences, which are of no value to you or anyone.

-- MYTH, 30

Even the techniques of meditation are self-centered activities. They are all self-perpetuating mechanisms which you use.

-- COURAGE, 20

Meditation is a self-centered activity. It is strengthening the very self that you want to be free from.

-- MYSTIQUE, 129

I am not saying anything against meditation -- do meditation, do yoga-- they are palliatives. . . . If instead of creating tensions all the time, meditation gives you relief from your tensions, do it. But I am suggesting, that it is the meditation that is creating all the tensions.

-- COURAGE, 91

If you seriously meditate, you will be in trouble. You will go crazy. Or if you try to practice this awareness all the time -- in your conscious as well as unconscious -- you will be really in trouble. You will end up in the loony bin, . . .

-- COURAGE, 91

~ MEMORY ~

The constant use of memory to maintain your identity, whether you are asleep, awake or dreaming, *is* what is going to destroy not only the human species, but also all forms of life on this planet. It is not a happy prophecy.

-- OUT, 139

The constant use of memory is wearing you out. We really do not know what memory is, but we are constantly using it to maintain that non-existent identity of ours.

-- OUT, 207

Because of this overuse [of memory] we don't have enough energy to deal with the problems of living. It is consuming tremendous amounts of energy.

-- OUT, 209

. . . [A]ll your yesterdays, all your knowledge, and your very sense of self are dead things of the past. These memories have a great deal of emotional content for you, but not for me.

-- MYTH, 118

~ MIND ~

Where is the mind you talk of? Can you show it to me? There is no such thing as your mind and my mind. Mind is everywhere, sort of like the air we breathe.

-- MYTH, 102

Spirituality is the invention of the mind, and the *mind is a myth*.

-- MYTH, 45

We are made to believe that there is such a thing as mind. But there is no such thing as your mind or my mind.

-- ENEMY, 18

I don't think there is any such thing as mind separate from the activity of the brain.

-- ENEMY, 71

The mind is interested only in sensuality. It maintains its continuity in the field of sensuality. So all religious experiences of any kind are sensual in their nature.

-- ENEMY, 86

There's no such thing as your mind or my mind. Maybe there is such a thing as the "world mind" where all the cumulative knowledge and the and experiences thereof are accumulated and passed on from generation to generation.

-- COURAGE, 54

~ MISERY ~

The separative thought structure, which is the totality of man's thoughts, feelings, experiences, and so on--what we call psyche or soul or self--is creating the disturbance. That is what is responsible for our misery. . .

-- OUT, 214

~ MORALITY ~

There is no such thing as absolute morality. By morality I mean questioning your actions before and after.

-- NATURAL STATE, 1, 19

A moral man is a chicken. A moral man is a frightened man, a chicken-hearted man. That is why he practices morality and sits in judgment of others.

-- NATURAL STATE, 1, 19

Only the man who is capable of immorality can talk of morality. There is no such thing as immorality for me. I cannot sit and preach morality. That is all. I take no moral positions at all. The one who talks of morals, love, and compassion is a humbug.

-- MYTH, 62

Your morality or the lack of it is of no importance compared to the fact that *you are dead*. You are always operating in and through your dead memory.

-- MYTH, 62

The whole religious business is nothing but moral codes of conduct: you must be generous, compassionate, loving, while all the time you remain greedy and callous. . . . There is nothing religious about it.

-- COURAGE, 63

~ THE NATURAL STATE ~

Your natural state is one of not knowing.

-- MYTH, 106

In the natural state the movement of self is absent. The absence of this movement probably is the beyond but that can never be experienced by you. It is when the you is not there.

-- NATURAL STATE, 1, 10

The natural state is acausal; it just happens. No communication is possible, and none necessary.

-- MYSTIQUE, 40

The natural needs of a human being are basic: food, clothing, and shelter.

-- MYSTIQUE, 48

To be yourself requires extraordinary intelligence. You are "blessed" with that intelligence. Nobody need give it to you, nobody can take it away from you. He who lets that express itself in its own way is a natural man.

-- MYSTIQUE, 57

The natural state is not the state of a self-realized, God-realized man. It is not a thing to be achieved or attained. It is not a thing to be willed into existence. It is there. It is the living state.

-- MYSTIQUE, 41

Your natural state has no relationship whatsoever with the religious senses of bliss, beatitude, and ecstasy. They lie within the field of experience.

-- MYSTIQUE, 41

Coming into your natural state will blast every cell, every gland, every nerve. It is a chemical change. An alchemy of some sort takes place.

-- MYSTIQUE, 41

The natural state is the functioning of the living organism. It is not a synonymous term for enlightenment or God-realization or self-realization. What is left here is this pulsating living organism.

-- OUT, 104

Your naturalness is something that you don't have to know. You just have to let that function in its own way.

-- COURAGE, 89

The natural state is a state of great sensitivity, but this is a physical sensitivity of the the senses, not some kind of emotional compassion or tenderness for others. There is compassion only in the sense that there are no "others" for me, and so there is no separation.

-- MYSTIQUE, 43

The personality doesn't change when you come into this [natural] state. You are, after all, a computer machine, which reacts as it has been programmed. It is in fact your

present effort to change yourself that is taking that is taking you away from yourself and keeping you from functioning in the natural way. The personality will remain the same. Don't expect such a man to become free from anger or idiosyncrasies. Don't expect some kind of spiritual humility.

-- MYSTIQUE, 48

The natural state is not a thoughtless state. That is one of the greatest hoaxes perpetrated for thousands of years on poor, helpless Hindus. You will never be without thought until the body is a corpse, a very dead corpse. Being able to think is necessary to survive. But in this state, thought stops choking you; it falls into its natural rhythm.

-- MYSTIQUE, 52

Man is always seeking something -- money, power, sex love mystical experience, truth, enlightenment -- and it is this seeking which keeps him out of his natural state.

-- MYSTIQUE, 145

~ NATURE ~

Nature does not use anything as a model. It is interested in perfecting the species.

-- OUT, 34

Nature is not interested in creating a perfect being. Its interest is to create only a perfect species.

-- ENEMY, 45

Nature does not imitate anything. It does not use anything as a model.

-- OUT, 51

Nature is trying to create something extraordinary, a perfect species. That is why each individual is unique. Because of this input of culture, it has become impossible for this organism to show uniqueness. We have destroyed the possibility of what nature can do.

-- OUT, 79

I submit that nature is attempting to create a unique individual every time something is created. Nature does not seem to use anything as a model. When once it has

perfected a unique individual, that is individual is thrown off the evolutionary process and is of no further interest to nature.

-- MYTH, 144

Our indiscretions are responsible for the imbalance in Nature.

-- OUT, 190

~ NEGATION ~

You see, in India they have evolved this negative approach. But the so-called negative approach is a positive approach, because they are still interested in reaching a goal. . . the positive goal of knowing the unknown, or wanting to experience something which cannot be experienced.

-- COURAGE, 24

My aim is not some comfy dialectical analysis, but the total negation of everything that can be experienced. Anything you try to make out of my statements is not it.

-- MYTH, 54

I am always negating what I am saying. I make a statement but that statement is not expressing all that is being said so I negate it. I negate the first statement, the second statement and all the other statements. That is why sometimes it sounds very contradictory. I am negating it all the time; not with the idea of arriving at any point, just negating.

-- NATURAL STATE, 1, 25-26

~ NEUROSIS ~

The very nature of mind (if there is a mind) is neurotic, because it wants two things at the same time. So every individual is a neurotic individual. As long as you want two things, you are in a state of neurosis.

-- MYSTIQUE, 152

~ NO MIND ~

The certainty I have today that there is no mind is something which I cannot transmit to anybody, however hard I may try . . .

-- ENEMY, 48

~ NON-VIOLENCE ~

I don't preach non-violence.

-- MYSTIQUE, 102

~ NORMALITY ~

Who is normal? The normal person is a statistical concept.

-- OUT, 184

~ OPPOSITES ~

When once you are freed from the pairs of opposites -- right and wrong, good and bad -- you will never be wrong.

-- NATURAL STATE, 3, 9

Within the framework of opposites, there is no freedom. That is why I always say, "You haven't got a chance". . . Likewise, the man who is not concerned with morality will not be interested in immorality. The answer to selfishness lies in selfishness, not a fictitious opposite called selflessness. Freedom from anger lies in anger, not in non-anger. Freedom from greed lies in greed, not in non-greed.

-- MYTH, 63

~ ORDINARINESS ~

It is very difficult to be ordinary, you know. You want to be something other than what you are. To be yourself is very easy, you don't have to do a thing.

-- COURAGE, 47

~ PAIN ~

Everything that is born is painful. . . . [E]ndurance of pain is not going to help you spiritually.

-- MYTH, 22

To me pain is a healing process. Bu we do not give enough chance or opportunity to the body to heal itself or help itself, to free itself from what we call pain

-- OUT, 199

Pain is part of the biological functioning of the body, and that is all there is to it.

-- OUT, 200

All creative things are painful. The birth of a child is a very natural thing but to call it a traumatic experience and build up a tremendous structure of theories around it is something I am not concerned with. It cannot be a traumatic experience.

-- NATURAL STATE, 5, 9

When the physical pain is unbearable and you have no way of freeing yourself from it, the body becomes unconscious. In that unconscious state, if the body still has any change of renewing itself to function normally, it tries to help itself.

-- OUT, 202

It [the body] knows only the physical pain, and it is not interested in your psychological pain at all.

-- COURAGE, 101

~ PARADISE ~

It is the idea of a paradise, the idea of creating a heaven on this earth, which has turned this beautiful paradise that we already have on this planet into a hell. We [humans] are totally responsible for what is happening.

-- OUT, 140

~ PAST ~

The past will always be there as long as you want something. . . .

When wanting ceases, even for a moment, thought is absent and you are left with the simple matter of taking care of the bodily wants -- food, clothes, and shelter.

-- MYTH, 91

If you go on trying to suppress the past, trying to live in what you call “the present,” you will drive yourself crazy. You are trying to control something over which you have no control.

-- MYTH, 92

To demand the cessation of the continuity of the movement of the past is ridiculous and unfounded. We have been brainwashed by all these people that if we free ourselves from the past in this life, everything will be hunky-dory, full of lightness and sweetness. It is all romantic hogwash.

-- MYTH, 97

What is necessary is that the individual should free himself from the burden of the past, . . Unless the individual frees himself from the burden of the past, he cannot come up with new solutions for the problems [he faces]. . . .

That is not in his hands; there is nothing that he can do to free himself from the burden of the past.

-- MYSTIQUE, 71

~ PEACE ~

The search for peace is dulling the natural peacefulness of the body.

-- MYTH, 68

There is already peace in man. You need not search. The living organism is functioning in an extraordinarily peaceful way.

-- MYTH, 108

Our search in this world for peace, being based upon warfare, will lead only to war, toward mean's damnation.

-- MYTH, 109

How to live at peace with yourself--that's an idea. There is an extraordinary peace that is there already. What makes it difficult for you to live at peace with yourself is the creation of what you call "peace," which is totally unrelated to the harmonious functioning of this body.

-- COURAGE, 17-18

You will be peaceful when all your ideas about awareness are dropped and you begin to function like a computer.

-- MYTH, P. 21

If there is a war going on within us, we cannot accept a peaceful world around us. We will certainly create war. . . . The peace-mongers and the warmongers sail in the same boat.

-- OUT, 48

As long as you are not at peace with yourself, it is not possible for you to be at peace with others.

-- COURAGE, 18

~ PERFECTION ~

Perfection is a foolish thought. Speaking or playing a musical instrument can be perfected, but that's not what I mean. Through years and years of practice you want to become a perfect man, but it is not something that can be perfected. . . . The perfect man doesn't exist at all.

-- MYSTIQUE, 101

~ PERMANENCE ~

This demand for repetition of the same thing over and over again is the demand for permanence. Such permanence is foreign to the body.

-- MYTH, P. 18

Since things in life are not permanent, we demand that there must be something permanent. That is why these religious teachers are peddling their wares in the streets.

-- OUT, 98

It is the constant demand for permanence that cripples society. . . . But nothing is permanent. Our efforts to make things permanent go entirely against the way of nature.

-- OUT, 219

~ PERSONALITY ~

I use the word *personality* in quite a different sense from the sense in which psychologists use the word. Every human being has a unique personality of his own, which is trying to express itself. The culture has created what is called a "normal man." You see character building is in the interests of the continuity of the society. The character-building mechanism has suppressed and thwarted what is there inside. It is in this sense that I use the word *personality*. There is nobody like you anywhere in this world among the four billion people we have.

-- MYSTIQUE, 95

The culture has made it impossible for the personality to express itself in its own way, because the culture has different ideas. It has created a neurotic state.

-- MYSTIQUE, 95

~ PHONIES ~

[H]e who says he is a free man is a phony.

-- MYTH, P. 32

~ PLEASURE ~

The body, which is only interested in survival and procreation, treats both pain and pleasure alike. It is *you* who insist on stopping pain and extending pleasure. The body's response to both pleasure and pain is the same -- it groans.

-- MYTH, 64

I'm not saying there is anything wrong with pleasure. Don't say that it is something wrong.

-- NATURAL STATE, 1, 32

~ POSTERITY ~

I don't believe in posterity. *I have no teaching*. There is *nothing* to preserve. . . . The answers you get are yours. They are your property, not mine. For this reason there is not now, nor will there ever be, any kind of copyright for whatever I am saying.

-- MYTH, 138

~ POWER ~

I personally feel that there is no power outside of man. Whatever power is out there is inside man. So, if that is the case -- and that is a fact to me -- there is no point in externalizing that power and creating some symbol and worshipping it, you know?

-- MYSTIQUE, 70

So, that's why I say God is irrelevant, because man has to rely more and more on his own resources.

-- MYSTIQUE, 70

What God stands for is already there in man -- there is no power outside of man -- and that has to express itself in its own way.

-- MYSTIQUE, 71

You don't let your power express itself. That's something living, vital. It's the throb, the pulse, the beat of life. You are an expression of that life.

-- NATURAL STATE, 1, 31

~ PROBLEMS ~

Your problems continue because of the false solutions you have invented.

-- MYTH, P. 19

If you don't have a problem, you don't feel that you are living.

-- OUT, 130

Actually there are no problems; there are only solutions.

-- OUT, 26

~ QUESTIONS ~

Instead of living, you are obsessed with the question, "How am I to live?" That dilemma is put into us by our culture, and is the one responsible for many of our problems. Because you are dead, not living what we call life, you are concerned with *how* to live.

-- MYTH, 102

There are no questions but only answers. We already have the answers. I don't have any questions of any kind. The only kind of questions I have are ones like, "How does this microphone work?" I ask that because I don't know its working. . . . You cannot apply this mechanical, technical know-how, which we have acquired through repeated study, to solve the problems of living.

-- OUT, 141

. . . [S]uch questions as, "Does God exist?" "Is life mere chance?" "Does perfect justice rule the world?" -- there are no answers to those questions, so the question burns itself out.

-- MYSTIQUE, 85

So when a question [regarding ultimate reality] is thrown at you, what should happen is that none of the answers have any meaning because all that is acquired and taught. So that movement stops. There is no need for you to answer the question. . . . All that you know comes to a halt.

-- COURAGE, 34

You are living. As soon as you introduce the question "how to live?" you have made of life a problem. "How" to live has made life meaningless.

-- MYTH, 50

All questions about death are meaningless, . . .

-- MYSTIQUE, 86

You must find your basic question. My basic question was: "Is there anything behind the abstractions the holy men are throwing at me? Is there really anything like enlightenment or self-realization?" I didn't want the question. I just had it.

-- MYTH, 127

All the questions you come out with must be your own questions. Then there is meaning in carrying on a dialogue. It has to be your question. So, do you have a question to call your own, a question that nobody else has asked before?

-- MYSTIQUE, 83

The questioner has to come to an end. It is the questioner that creates the answer, and the questioner comes into being from the answer. Otherwise, there is no questioner.

-- MYSTIQUE 83

~ REALITY ~

You have no way of experiencing the reality of the world at all.

-- COURAGE, 118

There is no such thing as reality at all. . . . Anything you do to understand the reality of the world is not going to be useful, helpful or meaningful.

-- ENEMY, 94

We do have to accept the reality of the world as it is imposed on us. Otherwise we will go crazy. If you question the reality of anything that is imposed on you, you are in trouble, because there is no such thing as reality, let alone the ultimate reality.

-- OUT, 53

This is the only reality I have, the world as it is today. The ultimate reality that man has invented has absolutely no relation to the reality of this world.

-- NATURAL STATE, 2, 1

~ REBIRTH ~

Actually, you are born and die with every breath you take. That is what is meant by death and rebirth.

-- MYTH, 66

~ REINCARNATION ~

Whatever answers you are given regarding death, you are not satisfied with them, and so you must invent theories about reincarnation. What is it that will reincarnate? Even while you are alive, what is there? Is there anything beyond the totality of the knowledge which exists inside you now?

-- MYTH, 56

~ RELATIONSHIP ~

Mutual gratification is the basis of all relationships. If you don't get what you want out of a relationship, it goes sour.

-- OUT, 141

The relationship between a man and a woman is based on the images that the two create for themselves of each other. So, the actual relationship between the two individuals is a relationship between the two images.

-- OUT, 165

Because you cannot face the impermanence of all relationships, you invent sentiments, romance, and dramatic emotions to give them continuity. Therefore you are always in conflict.

-- MYTH, 99

Get this straight -- you can never hear one word from anyone no matter how intimately you think you are in relationship with that person. You hear only your own translation always. They are all your words you are hearing.

-- NATURAL STATE, 1, 8.

~ RELIGION ~

. . . [R]eligion is entirely an individual affair.

-- MYTH, 27

It is religion that has really made a mess of man's life.

-- MYTH, 76

What I am trying to point out is simply this: your spiritual and religious activities are basically selfish.

-- MYTH, 81

Going to the pub or the temple is the same thing; it is a quick fix. You attach special significance to the prayers and temples, for no reason other than that it is your prejudice and that it makes you feel superior to those who frequent pubs and bordellos.

-- MYTH, 60

Everything that we are confronting today is a product of the religious thinking of man. . . . I don't think religious thinking has any answers for our problems today.

-- ENEMY, 65

Religion is dead, but the religious people are not ready to take back seats and admit to themselves that they have done an enormous mischief and now should leave everything to us.

-- OUT, 80

Religion is not going to save man, neither will atheism, nor communism, nor any of those systems.

-- COURAGE, 68

A religious man is no good for the society. A kind man is a menace to the society (one who is practicing kindness as a fine art).

-- COURAGE, 110

~ RENUNCIATION ~

As long as you think you have something to renounce, you are lost.

-- MYTH, 21

The renunciation of renunciation happens not through practice, discussion, money, or intellect. . . . It comes randomly, not because you deserve it.

-- MYTH, 55

I renounce the only thing worth renouncing --the idea that there is renunciation at all. There is nothing to renounce.

-- MYTH, 36

~ RESPONSIBILITY ~

It is the responsibility of everybody to contribute his mite, his share.

-- ENEMY, 59

~ REVOLUTION ~

I am not a reformer. I am not a revolutionary either. In fact, there is no such thing as revolution. All that is bogus.

-- MYTH, 124-125

Revolution does not mean the end of anything. It is only a revaluation of our value system. The only answer to this human problem, if there is any answer, is not to be found through new ideas, new concepts or new ideologies but through bringing about a change in the chemistry of the human body.

-- NATURAL STATE, 4, 7

~ SAGES ~

Great teachers never use any authority and they do not interpret anyone. . . . You cannot become a sage through any effort. It is not in your hands.

-- NATURAL, 1, 22

Sages and seers are original and unique because they have freed themselves from the entire past. Even the mystic experience is part of the past.

-- NATUAL, 1, 22

~ SAVIORS ~

. . . I have been pleading that the world has to be saved from all the saviors of mankind.

-- OUT, 69

You have to be saved from the very idea that you have to be saved. You must be saved from the saviors, redeemed from the redeemers. If it is to happen, it must happen *now*.

-- MYTH, 70

~ SAMADHI ~

The knowledge you have about samadhi [emptiness] is what is keeping you away from it. Samadhi comes after the ending of all you have ever known, at death.

-- MYTH, 51

A person who has come into such a state of samadhi is like a man and a child rolled into one. . . . The state is always a state of wonder.

-- MYSTIQUE, 130

~ SCIENCE ~

Pure science is nothing but speculation. The scientists discuss formulas endlessly and provide us with some equations. But I am not at all taken in by the “march of progress” and all that rot.

-- OUT, 222

I am not against the scientific method per se. What I am pointing out is the fact that there is no such thing as a "pure" search for knowledge, or knowledge for its own sake. It is not so innocent.

-- MYTH, 119

~ SCIENTISTS ~

You scientists are the ones who control the fate of the world, not these *gurus*, not these religious people. The fate of the world is in your hands and not in the hands of government.

-- OUT, 230

~ SEARCHING ~

What you are looking for does not exist.

-- MYSTIQUE, 56

You are undoubtedly searching for what you already know. It is impossible to search for something you do not know. You search for, and find, what you know. It is difficult for you to face this simple fact.

-- MYTH, 87

For forty-nine years I searched for a man called "U. G." The whole culture put me on the wrong track. I tried the dead gurus as well as the living gurus. Eventually, I realized that the search was useless, that the "enemy" was me. Now the entire knowledge, and the search it engendered, has been thrown out of my system completely.

-- MYTH, 148

. . . [T]hose who go to listen to spiritual discourses, those who read books of a religious nature and those who are looking beyond for something are like monkeys who sit around red ocher, trying to warm themselves. You know what red ocher is. It's red in

color, but there's no warmth. There isn't anything you can get from any spiritual discourses or from any religious book. . . . There is nothing to accomplish, nothing to attain.

-- MYSTIQUE, 158

If you follow any path, it doesn't matter what that path is, it is always leading you astray. It is putting you on the wrong path. If you make anything out of what I am saying, you are lost, body and soul.

-- MYSTIQUE, 158

So, if you don't want to go anywhere, where is the need for you to look for a path?

-- MYSTIQUE, 159

~ SELF ~

Self is God. The divine you want in the future is already here.

-- NATURAL STATE, 1, 25

What you call the *I* or the s*elf* or the *center* is illusory.

-- MYSTIQUE, 99

The self will use *anything* to perpetuate itself; nothing is sacred.

-- MYTH, 155

There is no self, there is no I, there is no spirit, there is no soul, and there is no mind. That knocks off the whole list, and you have no way of finding out what you are left with.

-- ENEMY, 1

You want to become something other than what you are. That creates this neurotic situation.

-- OUT, 78

This question [Who am I?] haunted me all my life, and suddenly it hit me: "There is no self to realize. What the hell have I been doing all this time?" You see, that hits you like a lightening. Once that hits you, the whole mechanism of the body that is controlled by

this thought [of the 'I'] is shattered. What is left is the tremendous living organism with an intelligence of its own.

-- OUT, 40

The value system has created 'you', and there is no way you can free yourself from that. Anything you do to free yourself from that value system is adding momentum to it.

-- ENEMY, 111

~ SELF-KNOWLEDGE ~

Understanding yourself is one of the greatest jokes, perpetrated on the gullible and credulous people everywhere, not only by the purveyors of ancient wisdom -- the holy men -- but also by the modern scientists. The psychologists love to talk about self-knowledge, self-actualization, living from moment to moment, and such rot.

-- MYTH, 100

The more you know about yourself the more impossible it becomes to be humble and sensitive. How can there be humility as long as you know something?

-- MYTH, 101

There is no self to be realized. The whole religious structure that has been built on this foundation collapses because there is nothing to realize.

-- NATURAL STATE, 1, 31

~ SELFLESSNESS ~

As long as you are doing something to be selfless, you will be a self-centered individual. When this movement in the direction of wanting to be a selfless man is not there, then there is no self and there is no self-centered activity.

-- COURAGE, 20

Your interest in selflessness is motivated by the past. As long as there is motivation, it is a self-centered activity. The more you do, the more selfish you become. Your wanting to be enlightened or selfless is a very selfish thing.

-- MYTH, 78

Your so-called selflessness exists only in the future, tomorrow. And when tomorrow comes, it is put off until the next day, or perhaps next life.

-- MYTH, 79

~ SELF-QUESTIONING ~

I *never* ask myself how I am functioning. I *never* question my actions, before, while, or after they occur. Does a computer ask how it is functioning?

-- MYTH, 34

Actually we do not want answers for our questions. The assumption that the questions are different from the questioner is also false. If the answer goes, the questioner also goes. The questioner is nothing but the answers. That is really the problem.

-- OUT, 42

~ SENSITIVITY ~

The sensitivity of the sensory perceptions is destroyed by whatever you are doing to free yourself from whatever you want to be free from It is destroying the sensitivity of the nervous system here.

-- COURAGE, 63

We have placed before man the goal or the ideal of a perfect man, a truly religious man. So anything you do to reach that goal of perfection is destroying the sensitivity of this body. It is creating violence here.

-- COURAGE, 63

~ SEX ~

As long as you think of God you will have thoughts of sex.

-- NATURAL STATE, 1, 9

. . . [N]either the denial nor the indulgence in sex has anything to do with what they

[spiritual teachers] call enlightenment.

-- OUT, 82

Sex is unfortunately separated from other activities. Why? I have always wondered. It is one; it can't be separated. Why have they put it on a different level? That has created the problem, not only here, but in Western countries as well.

-- MYSTIQUE, 105

I would like to say one thing: to be attracted to something is natural. If you are not attracted, you are a stone.

-- OUT, 82

Unfortunately, we have blown this business of sex out of proportion. It is just a simple biological need of the living organism. The body is interested in only two things - to survive, and to reproduce one like itself.

-- OUT, 166

There is no sex at all without thought.

-- OUT, 168

We give a tremendous importance to sex, and so the denial of it becomes such an obsession with people. . . . Whether it is ordinary sex or Tantric sex, or you go and have sex with a prostitute, it's all the same.

-- OUT, 172

. . . [I]n the pursuit of spiritual matters it doesn't really make any difference whether you practice celibacy or indulge in sex and call it Tantric sex. . . . To say that there is more 'feeling' or more closeness when you have sex for spiritual reasons is absolute rubbish.

-- OUT, 178

I denied myself sex for twenty-five years pursuing spiritual goals. Then I realized, "Look, this is ridiculous. Celibacy has nothing to do with it. I have wet dreams. Sex is

burning inside me. Why the hell am I denying myself sex? Why the hell am I torturing myself?"

-- OUT, 174

Sex is violence. But it is a necessary violence for this body.

-- OUT, 178

Sex is a part of live. Homosexuality, lesbianism, heterosexuality, it's all the same.

-- MYTH, 140

~ SILENCE ~

Real silence is explosive; it is not that dead state of mind that spiritual seekers think. . . . Silence is volcanic in nature. It's bubbling all the time -- the energy, the life -- that is its quality.

-- MYSTIQUE, 42

~ SIN ~

There can be error, mistakes, weakness, but no sin for me. I personally see no reason why we should bother with the Bible, the Koran, the Gita, or the Dhammapada. We have a political body with its civil and criminal codes. That should be sufficient to handle the problem [of malfeasance].

-- MYTH, 141

~ SOCIETY ~

Society is built on a foundation of conflict, and *you are society*. Therefore you *must* always be in conflict with society.

-- MYTH, 98

You and I have been created by the society, solely and wholly to maintain its continuity, its status quo. You have no way of establishing your own individuality. . . . If you don't accept the reality of the world as it is imposed on us, you will end up in the loony bin.

-- OUT, 144

Society is the sum of relationships, and despite what you may find agreeable to believe, all these relationships are sordid and horrible. This is the unsavory fact; take it or leave it.

-- OUT, 220

Society is interested in its continuity and permanence. It is interested in the status quo. It is always maintaining that status quo.

-- COURAGE, 53

So, what does a man like me contribute to society? Nothing. So how can I expect anything from society? Society does not owe a living to me at all. On the other hand, what I am saying is a threat to society as it is presently organized.

-- MYTH, 122

I am neither antisocial nor thankful to society. I don't feel any bounden duty to play any part or to help my fellow men. All this kind of thing is balderdash.

-- MYTH, 148

~ SORROW ~

Wanting to be free from something that is not there is what you call "sorrow." Wanting to be free from sorrow is sorrow. There is no other sorrow.

-- MYTH, 45

Thinking does not put an end to sorrow. Sorrow is there for you as long as you think. . . . Thinking about and struggling against "sorrow" is sorrow. Since you can't stop thinking, and thinking is sorrow, you will always suffer. There is no way out, no escape.

-- MYTH, 45

Not getting what you want is sorrow. It doesn't matter what you want -- happiness, good health, enlightenment.

-- MYSTIQUE, 152

~ SPACE ~

Is there space? No. There is no space. there is no way you can experience space. It is thought that creates it. Anything you can say about space has no meaning. There is no way you can experience space at all.

-- ENEMY, 116

. . . [S]pace itself, as a dimension, exists only as a creation of thought. Thought has also tried to theorize about the space it has created, inventing the "time-space-continuum."
Time is an independent reference or frame. There is no necessary continuity between it and space.

-- MYTH, 72

~ SPIRITUALITY ~

All spiritual, mystical experiences are born out of thought. They are thought-induced states, nothing more.

-- MYTH, 54

I am questioning the whole spiritual experience. That's what I'm trying to rip apart.

-- MYTH, 117

What I am suggesting is that there is no such thing as spirituality at all. If you superimpose what you call spirituality on what is called material life, then you create problems for yourself.

-- COURAGE, 118

The spiritual people, are the most dishonest people. . . . If there is no spirit, then the whole talk of spirituality is bosh and nonsense.

-- MYTH, 35

There is only one life. . . . Wanting to change your material life into that so-called religious pattern given to you, placed before you by these religious people, is destroying the possibility of your living in harmony and accepting the reality of this material world exactly the way it is. That is responsible for your pain, for your suffering, for your sorrow.

-- COURAGE, 119

~ STILLNESS ~

Stillness of mind is ridiculous. There is no such thing as stillness of mind. This is another trick created by the demand to be free.

-- MYTH, 75

~ SURVIVAL ~

Each cell of a living organism cooperates with the other cell next to it. It does not need any sentiment or declaration of undying love to do so. Each cell is wise enough to know that if its neighbor goes, it also goes. The cells stick together not out of brotherhood, love and that kind of thing, but out of the urgent drive to survive.

-- OUT, 229

~ THINKING ~

There is no thinking at all. If there is no thinker, there are no thoughts at all.

-- ENEMY, 8

Through thinking you cannot understand a thing.

-- NATURAL STATE, 1, 10

~ THOUGHT ~

Thought is matter.

-- ENEMY, 115

All thought is reactive.

-- MYTH, 16

Every time thought is born, you are born.

-- COURAGE, 44

Thought is an interloper, which thrusts itself into the affairs of the senses. It has a profit motive.

-- MYSTIQUE, 41

Thought is not the instrument to help us living in harmony with the life around us.

-- ENEMY, 12

You cannot even observe your thoughts, much less control them. How can you possibly observe your thoughts? You talk as though there is some entity in you separate from thoughts. It is an illusion; your thoughts are *not* separate from you.

-- MYTH, 58

Thought can only create problems; it cannot help us to solve any.

-- ENEMY, 19

Every thought that is born has to die. It is what they call the death wish. If a thought does not die, it cannot be reborn. It has to die, and with it you die. But you don't die with each thought and breath. You hook up each thought with the next, creating a false continuity. It is *that* continuity that is the problem.

-- COURAGE, 62

The most important thing for us to realize is that thought is a very destructive weapon, and that it is our enemy.

-- ENEMY, 62

Thought by itself can do no damage. It is only when you want to do something with thought that you create problems for yourself.

-- MYTH, 58

. . . [T]hought is something dead. It is something that can never touch anything living.

-- ENEMY, 70

I maintain and very often say that thought in its birth, in its content, in its expression, and in its action is fascist. It is very aggressive.

-- ENEMY, 83

Thought creates an armor all around itself. Any time a crack appears there, you patch it up.

-- OUT, 95

It [thought] is our enemy. Thought is a protective mechanism. It is interested in protecting itself at the expense of the living organism.

-- OUT, 212

You are not going to reach your goal of completely controlling your thought. Thought has to function in its own way, in its disconnected, disjointed way. That is something which cannot be brought about through any effort of yours. It has to fall into its normal rhythm.

-- COURAGE, 28

. . . [T]hought is essential only for the survival of this living organism. When it is necessary, it is there. When it is not necessary, the question whether it is there or not is of no importance at all.

COURAGE, 45

When once the organism has freed itself from the stranglehold of thought, anything you do to try to bring about peace and harmony there only creates disharmony and violence.

-- MYTH, 146

Thought doesn't stop. Thoughts will always be there, because thought and life are not two different things. Don't imagine that you will be free of thoughts. Thoughts may be there or not, but you don't identify yourself with the thoughts at all.

-- MYSTIQUE, 152

~ TIME ~

All ideas of time, even those of chronological time, are arbitrary.

-- ENEMY, 116

. . . [I]t is time that has created the need for the timeless.

-- NATURAL STATE, 1, 24

Happening is in time. When time is not there, there is no happening.

-- NATURAL STATE, 1, 24

~ THE TIMELESS ~

The timeless can never be experienced, can never be grasped, contained, much less given expression to, by any man.

-- MYSTIQUE, 41

Time burns itself out when the timeless is knocked off.

-- NATURAL STATE, 1, 24

~ TRADiTION ~

What is tradition after all? It is unwillingness to change with the changing time.

-- OUT, 166

~ TRANSFORMATION ~

There is no transformation, radical or otherwise.

-- MYTH, 31

~ TRUTH ~

Truth is a movement. . . . The moment you capture it, it ceases to be truth.

-- MYTH, 22

You will never know the truth, because it's a movement. It's a movement!

-- MYSTIQUE, 113

There is no such thing as truth. The only thing that is actually there is your "logically" ascertained premise, which you call "truth."

-- MYTH, 36

You have to become completely disillusioned, and then the truth begins to express itself in its own way. I have discovered that it is useless to try to discover the truth. The search for truth is, I have discovered, absurd, because it's a thing that you cannot capture, contain, give expression to.

-- MYSTIQUE, 113

~ UNDERSTANDING ~

. . . [U]nderstanding is the absence of the demand for understanding--now or tomorrow.

-- COURAGE, 23

Understanding is a state of being where the question isn't there any more. There is nothing there that says, "Now I understand!"

-- MYSTIQUE, 83

I have discovered for myself and by myself that what we have been told about freedom, enlightenment, and God is false. No power in the world can touch this.

-- MYTH, 106

~ UNIQUENESS ~

You can't come into your own uniqueness unless the whole of human experience is thrown out of your system. It cannot be done through any volition or the help of anything. Then you are on your own.

-- MYTH, 52

A truly unique person, having no cultural reference point, would never know he is unique.

-- MYTH, 145

~ UNKNOWN ~

It's all right to play games, it's interesting, but there is no such thing as "the beyond," no such thing as "the unknown."

-- COURAGE, 24

~ VAGABOND ~

I don't live in any particular place. I am here today, and tomorrow I will be in America, or God knows where. I have no fixed abode. I have no tangible means of livelihood. That is the definition of a vagabond.

-- OUT, 160

~ VALUES ~

All moral, spiritual, ethical values are false.

-- MYTH, 21

I am not against any value system, but the demand to fit ourselves into it [a value system] is the cause of man's suffering.

-- OUT, 38

Your value system is the one that is responsible for the human malady, human tragedy, forcing everybody to fit into that model.

-- NATURAL STATE, 4, 3

~ VEDANTA ~

Vedanta means the end of knowledge.

-- MYTH, 70

~ VEGETARIANISM ~

Vegetarianism for what? For some spiritual goals? One form of life lives off another. . . . For health reasons maybe one should. I don't know, I don't see any adequate reason why one should be a vegetarian.

-- COURAGE, 67

Vegetarians are more aggressive than meat-eaters. You will be surprised.

-- COURAGE, 67

. . . [I]f you talk of vegetarianism and kill millions of people, that is the most immoral, unpardonable act that a civilized culture of human beings can ever do. Do you see the absurdity of the two?

-- COURAGE, 109

~ VIOLENCE ~

The incredible violence in the world today has been created by the Jesuses and Buddhas.

-- MYTH, 35

As long as you use thought to bring about a change within and a change without, there is bound to be violence. It is bound to be so. Your attempt to create a peaceful state is creating war. . .

-- ENEMY, 120

Violence is an integral part of the evolutionary process. That violence is essential for the survival of the living organism. You can't condemn the hydrogen bomb for it is an extension of the policeman there and your desire to be protected.

-- NATURAL STATE, 3, 4

Man must face the necessary violence in life; you must kill to live, one form of life thrives on another. And yet you have condemned killing.

-- MYTH, 66

The military wars out there are the extension of what is going on all the time inside you.

-- MYTH, 108

~ VIRTUE ~

The man who practices virtue is a man of vice. Only such a man, a man of vice, would practice virtue. There is not a virtuous man in the world.

-- MYTH, 44

~ THE WEST ~

The West is in a sorry mess today. They don't have the answers to their own problems.

-- OUT, 80

~ WHAT IS ~

That is a very misleading phrase, to accept 'what is.' It is very interesting to talk about 'what is,' but you cannot describe that 'what is' in any manner. And you cannot leave 'what is' as it is.

-- OUT, 148

~ WOMEN ~

It's really unfortunate that man got away with everything for centuries while society ignored women. Half the population of this planet was neglected, humiliated, and treated as doormats.

-- NATURAL STATE, 5, 10

I am not overly enthusiastic about all these feminist movements today. It is a revolt that really has no basis for it. It's more of a reaction.

-- NATUAL STATE, 5, 10

One of the leaders of the feminist movement visited me and asked, "What do you have to say of our movement?" I said, "I am on your side but you have to realize one very fundamental thing. As long as you depend on man for your sexual needs, so long you are not a free person. If you use a vibrator for your sexual satisfaction, that is a different matter." "You are very crude," she said. I am not crude. What I am saying is a fact. As long as you depend on something or somebody there is scope for exploitation.

-- NATURAL STATE, 5, 10

~ WORLD ~

What is wrong with this world? Why do you want to change the world? This is an extraordinarily beautiful world! You want to change the world so that you can live in a world of your own ideas.

-- MYSTIQUE, 140

I do not look upon the world as a separate thing as you do. The knowledge I have about the world -- whether within or without -- comes into operation only when there is a demand for it. Otherwise I simply don't know.

-- MYTH, 106

You see, the whole world is now thinking in terms of one world -- at least theoretically -- but nobody is ready to give up the sovereignty of his nation. That is really the crux of the problem.

-- MYSTIQUE, 63

~ YOGA ~

. . . [Y]our breathing exercises, your yoga exercises, your meditations, are disturbing the chemistry of the body, and the natural rhythm of the body in exactly the same way that all these drugs which people take disturb the chemistry of the body. So, you say that they [drugs] are damaging, but actually these [spiritual disciplines] are far more damaging than those things.

-- COURAGE, 100

When I was young I did Yoga in the Himalayas for seven years with Sivananda Saraswati. It didn't help, so I dropped it. . . . I practiced yoga techniques for a second time. But I soon found for myself that the whole yoga business runs counter to the natural way the body is functioning.

-- MYTH, 146

Yoga is actually the body's skill in bringing itself back from the state of clinical death. . . . This yoga of renewal is an extraordinary thing.

-- MYTH, 150

First, you must die, then, there is yoga.

-- MYTH, 151

NOTES

1. Ramakrishna was perhaps the best known Indian saint who lived in the nineteenth century (1836-1886). Shankara was a Hindu philosopher who contended that the individual soul and Brahmin are one (788 CE - 820 CE).

2. Samadhi is a Sanskrit word that refers to a meditative quality of emptiness.

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